

Serial No.: 09/698,800

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (New) A structure comprising a bond formed between an optical fibre and a metallic element with a glass fixative, the bond having been formed by positioning a glass preform adjacent the optical fibre and the metallic element and inducing current flows in the metallic element to generate sufficient heat to melt the preform, wherein the glass fixative composition includes all of the following: PbO; PbF₂; Nb₂O₅; CuO; Bi₂O₃; Fe₂O₃; ZnO; TiO₂; Al₂O₃; B₂O₃; SiO₂; and CaO.

47. (New) A structure comprising a bond formed between an optical fibre and a metallic element with a glass fixative, the bond having been formed by positioning a glass preform adjacent the optical fibre and the metallic element and inducing current flows in the metallic element to generate sufficient heat to melt the preform, wherein the glass fixative composition includes the following constituents in the following proportions:

PbO 60%wt to 65%wt; PbF₂ 2%wt to 5%wt; Nb₂O₅ 2%wt to 5%wt; CuO 0.5%wt to 1.5%wt; Bi₂O₃ 6%wt to 7%wt; Fe₂O₃ 2%wt to 3%wt; ZnO 2%wt to 3%wt; TiO₂ 5%wt to 7%wt; Al₂O₃ 0.1%wt to 0.3%wt; B₂O₃ 2%wt to 3%wt; SiO₂ 0.1%wt to 0.4%wt; CaO 1% to 1.5%wt.